

REMARKS

Applicants have now reviewed the Office Action of December 15, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 22 and 23 were presented for examination.

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 and under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Wall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,104).

Claims 22-41 Remaining in the Application in Appropriate Form and Distinguished from the Cited Art

Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's rejection of claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §101. These claims have been amended, and it is submitted this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Turning to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on Wall et al., Applicant respectfully submits Wall et al. is directed to a problem and solution distinct from that of the present application. Specifically, Wall et al. is directed to simplifying the backing of a tow vehicle to a trailer. Thus, Wall et al. is concerned with making the connection between a tractor and a trailer, whereas the present application is focused on the control of rearview mirrors for a tractor-trailer combination which is already connected and is in the process of moving down the road.

In the present application, claim 22 has been amended to more particularly define that the control signal which is generated includes positioning data to position the rearview mirror, and that the control signal is supplied to a rearview mirror positioning device, whereby the rearview mirror is positioned based on the supplied control signal. Wall et al. does not teach or fairly disclose any of these concepts.

Additionally, while the new material added to address the issues under §101 also distinguish claim 22 from Wall et al., it is submitted by the Applicants the described positional variables originally provided in claim 22 also set forth subject matter which distinguished the claim from Wall et al. Particularly, Wall et al. does not teach using information regarding a position of a rearview mirror, a distance from the rearview mirror and an attachment point, or a distance from the attachment point to an axle of the trailer nor would it have use of any information regarding the

relative angular position of the towing vehicle and the towed item.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 22 is distinguished from Wall et al.

In addition to their own distinctive subject matter, as claims 22-31 are dependent from claim 22, it is submitted these claims are also distinguished.

Turning to claim 32, again, this claim is specifically directed to a tractor-trailer combination where the tractor and trailer are connected via a pivoting mechanism and a method for controlling positioning of the rearview mirrors is taught. This is not a concept taught or fairly considered by Wall et al.

Additional, this claim includes a step of detecting a relative position of the tractor and trailer, while they are connected. This concept is not taught or fairly disclosed by Wall et al.

Further, claim 32 recites encoding by an encoder which is affixed at a position on the tractor of the tractor-trailer combination. Wall et al. does not have such an encoder, to encode data and generate a feedback signal. Further, Wall does not teach or suggest rearview mirror positioning signals, and such a signal is not supplied to a rearview mirror control mechanism. Further, there is no teaching or fair suggestion of a rearview mirror positioning signal used to operate a rearview control mechanism as set forth in this claim.

For the above-noted reason, it is submitted independent claim 32 is distinguished from the cited art.

In addition to their own distinctive subject matter, as claims 33-41 are dependent from claim 32, it is submitted these claims are also distinguished.

The additionally cited but non-applied art were not considered to teach or fairly suggest the subject matter of the above claims.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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3/15/05
Date

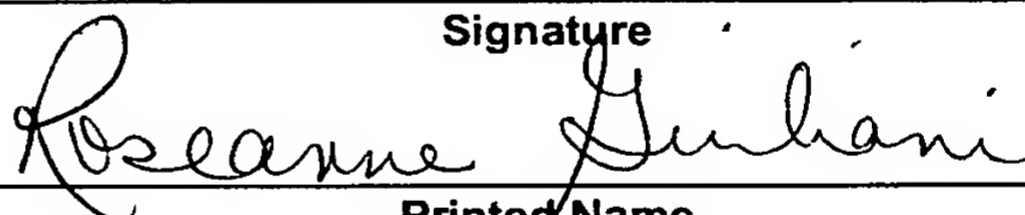

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